

- (a) Air pollution;
- (b) Water pollution;
- (c) Protection from noise;
- (d) Conservation of land and soil;
- (e) Conservation of forests, flora and fauna;
- (f) Protection of wildlife;
- (g) Regulation of use of chemicals;
- (h) Regulation of discharge of wastes;
- (i) Protection from radiation;
- (j) Human settlement; and
- (k) Protection of cultural property and monuments.
- (iii) National agencies and institutions responsible for administration and implementation of environmental legislation.
- (iv) Specific provisions dealing with implementation/enforcement of environmental legislation.
- (v) Environmental impact assessment.
- (vi) Trans-frontier pollution.
- (vii) International drainage basin concept.
- (viii) Prevention and control of marine pollution.
- (ix) Liability for pollution damage.
- (x) Polluter pays principle.

The questionnaire evoked very good response as the Secretariat received replies from 25 governments : Australia, Bangladesh, The Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, New Zealand, The Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

At the Doha Session of the AALCC held in 1978, it was decided to convene an Expert Group meeting to evaluate the material collected on the basis of replies received in response to the questionnaire. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of the Expert Group at the

AALCC's Headquarters in New Delhi from the 18th to 21st December, 1978.

The primary objective of the meeting was to assist the member governments in identifying areas in which environmental protection measures were urgently needed and in the formulation of their national policies through appropriate legislative and administrative measures. The Expert Group after extensive discussions identified the following environmental problems as common to the Asian-African region which needed urgent attention :

1. Human Settlements

- (i) Rapid urbanisation-town and country planning;
- (ii) Housing and the impact of building codes;
- (iii) Traffic and transport system-control of exhaust fumes;
- (iv) Waste disposal and treatment;
- (v) Public health service schemes;
- (vi) Migration and trans-migration.

2. Land Uses

- (i) Modernization of agriculture;
- (ii) Deforestation;
- (iii) Marginal rangelands ecology and expanding human activities;
- (iv) Land use practices, soil erosion and degradation, livestock, national parks, public works.

3. Mountain Ecology

4. Industrialization

- (i) Rapid industrialization;
- (ii) The industrial component in the pollution of resources.

5. Marine Pollution

- (i) Land-based sources;

- (ii) Vessel sources;
- (iii) Off-shore mining and drilling, including oil storage and transportation.

The Expert Group recommended that in regard to each of the above sources of pollution, the consequences should be examined with regard to :

- (i) Air;
- (ii) Soil, flora and fauna and
- (iii) Water.

The Expert Group considered that it would be useful for member governments to formulate their own national environmental policies taking into account their immediate and future requirements as well as their national priorities, and in the context of such policies to undertake on an organised basis the enactment as well as the updating of already existing legislations including rules, regulations and statutory orders. An aspect, which needed to be examined in this connection, was the requirement of an environmental impact assessment as a tool for the enforcement of environmental standards.

As regards principles underlying the legislations, the Expert Group suggested that the governments might give consideration to the question of providing in their environmental protection legislation, principles of liability as well as forms of compensation to ensure that a person injured by harmful effects of pollution would be adequately compensated. In that connection, the Expert Group recommended that the member governments might give consideration, as far as possible, to provide in any legislation which they might undertake, principles defining the minimum standards, guidelines and practicable measures to be observed in the various fields of environmental protection; machinery to ensure observance of those standards and suitable compensation for the victims suffering from loss or injury because of the non-observance of those standards.

The Expert Group, requested the Secretariat to collect data, material and other relevant information regarding legislations

obtaining in countries within the Asian-African region and outside and to formulate guidelines to assist member governments in the establishment of a legislative framework for the implementation of their own environmental policies. In addition, it suggested that the Secretariat should establish a panel of experts who might be made available to member governments to assist in the formulation of national policies and the drafting of legislation, upon request from member governments.

The Expert Group also considered the nature and scope of the enforcement machinery which might be appropriate for the countries of the Asian-African region. The types of enforcement machinery discussed were : the system of courts, administrative tribunals and compensation boards. It was suggested that the Secretariat should prepare studies on this aspect of the problem so that appropriate recommendations could be made to member governments at a later stage.

The Expert Group while recognizing that several countries had already established or were in the process of establishing environmental policies, stressed the need for establishing a co-ordinating authority in each country. This authority could be entrusted with the task of initiating action in regard to formulation of a national policy and to organize and supervise its implementation. The Expert Group was of the view that the implementation of the policies should be carried out through governmental machinery at local levels, namely, State Governments in cases of federations, municipalities and local boards, town planning authority etc.

Some participants of the Expert Group stressed the need for the establishment of an agency which would be specially charged with the land planning having regard to the fact that systematic development of land in the Asian-African countries would greatly facilitate the task of prevention and control of environmental pollution.

In regard to the possible areas of regional and sub-regional co-operation for prevention and control of pollution, the Expert Group was of the view that such co-operation could be usefully developed in the areas concerning :

- (a) The oceans;

- (b) International watercourses;
- (c) Weather;
- (d) Nuclear weapon tests and atmospheric pollution;
- (e) Preservation of the wildlife;
- (f) International trade in chemicals, pesticides and other toxic substances;
- (g) Natural calamities;
- (h) Environmental education and training; and
- (i) Human settlements, financing and management.

Recognising the important contributions made by numerous regional and international conventions dealing with various environmental matters, a suggestion was made that the AALCC might take up the question of ratification of these conventions with its member governments.

The Expert Group's discussion on marine pollution centered on three major sources of pollution, namely, vessel source pollution, land-based pollution and pollution arising out of exploitation of resources in off-shore areas.

In regard to vessel-based pollution, the Expert Group suggested three specific areas for consideration, namely :

- (i) Pollution arising out of oil spills and cleaning of tankers in the seas, which affect the coastal areas, more particularly in the narrow-enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and straits used for international navigation;
- (ii) Pollution arising out of accidents to oil tankers; and
- (iii) Dumping of wastes and vessel pollution in the high seas which affect the coastal areas and the economic zones.

In regard to the first, it was felt that the problem should be dealt with through appropriate national legislation designed to protect the resources of the economic zones in accordance with new international norms and principles relating to Law of the Sea.

In regard to cases of pollution through accidents, the Expert Group was of the view that the damage through such sources could be substantially reduced if emergency posts could be established in the region which would be provided with necessary equipment and trained personnel to deal with emergency situations arising from accidents. The Expert Group was of the view that the Secretariat should examine questions concerning an appropriate legal framework for the establishment and operation of such emergency posts and the means of financing them.

The Expert Group requested the Secretariat to prepare a case study of the blow outs and other accidental pollution from this source in the world, including the method and equipment used for cleaning pollution and the cost of clearing up and damage involved. In addition, the financial aspects of safety and other preventive measures and monitoring etc. would require detailed consideration. The Secretariat was also asked to formulate some guidelines or model legislation that might be used by the member governments.

In regard to marine pollution from exploration and exploitation of the off-shore resources, the Expert Group stressed the need to study preventive as well as remedial measures for controlling pollution from the installations and equipment used for exploration of the off-shore resources, storage facilities and pipelines used for transportation of petroleum.

The Expert Group stressed that the regional arrangements would be most useful to control pollution from oil spills and accidents.

In regard to the control of pollution affecting fishery resources in the economic zones and coastal States in the region, the Expert Group suggested that, at an appropriate stage, legislative measures might be taken by States for the control of such pollution within the framework of the principles that were being developed in the Law of the Sea Conference relating to exclusive economic zones and prevention and control of marine pollution.

The Expert Group also discussed the need for establishing a system of regional co-operation for the management of the resources of the oceans, especially the fishery resources of the areas within national jurisdiction as well as the flora along the coasts. In this connection, the pollution of the oceans caused by land-based sources such as the discharge of chemicals and other wastes through rivers was specially mentioned.

The Expert Group emphasized the importance of establishing regional mechanisms for dealing with marine pollution problems of transnational character. It suggested that the AALCC could promote a dialogue among coastal States on regional basis to deal with such problems.

Lastly, the Expert Group recognised the need for the AALCC to usefully participate in an international endeavour to promote environmental protection through increasing national awareness of environmental problems and the formulation of national legislations in this field and the establishment of co-ordinating agencies at the highest national level to supervise and implement national policies in regard to environmental protection.

Seoul Session (1979)

At the Seoul Session the topic came up for discussion at the fourth plenary meeting held on 22nd February 1979.

The observer for *IMCO* stressed the need for continuing co-operation with the AALCC. He appreciated that the AALCC was not duplicating the work of the other international organizations engaged in this field. He reiterated the support and assistance of *IMCO* to the AALCC and its member States particularly in regard to marine pollution matters.

The representative of *UNEP* stressed that the concept of environment was no longer regarded as a mere process of pollution control or preservation of environment but as a resource management. He commended the suggestions of the

Expert Group relating to the setting up of an advisory group to be available for advice to countries on request and the clearing house of information and urged co-ordination with *ESCAP* and similar organizations. He pointed out that there were many areas in regional co-operation which might require assistance of the legal bodies like the AALCC.

One of the delegates, while supporting the Expert Group report as a starting point for developing and enhancing environmental law, suggested that the Secretariat should conduct the study with a view to identifying some general principles which might guide the development of environmental law in general. He supported the idea of establishment of an advisory group to provide possible practical assistance to member governments with respect to preparation of national legislation.

Another delegate, while endorsing the recommendations of the Expert Group meeting, stressed the need to harmonise national laws and regulations with the provisions of international conventions to which Asian-African countries might become parties. He supported the proposal to establish an expert panel for assisting member governments to enact their national legislations in close collaboration with organizations like the *UNEP* and *ESCAP* which might be able to make available their financial and other resources.

Yet another delegate suggested that the AALCC should take up as a priority item the study of the problem of marine pollution from the exploration and exploitation of offshore resources particularly petroleum and natural gas, as in that field very limited information was available for preventing and controlling pollution. In his view, the AALCC should collect and make available to its member countries information on the preventive and remedial measures in regard to pollution arising from: (a) the installation and equipment used for exploitation of the off-shore resources; (b) the storage tankers and other facilities and (c) pipelines used for transportation of petroleum and natural gas. He suggested that the AALCC could study in detail the information collected by it and attempt to formulate some guidelines or model legislation that might be used by the governments in the Asian-African region.

An observer drew attention of the AALCC to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area which takes into account the whole spectrum of the marine environment and its protection. This, he felt, could usefully be followed in other parts of the world.

One of the delegates stressed the need to establish an institutional framework for exchange of information and material on environmental protection. He recognised the close relationship between economic development and environmental protection and stressed the need for proper harmonization of these conflicting elements as the different political, economic, social and cultural backgrounds of Asian-African States would have to be taken into account while at the same time safeguarding sovereignty of each country.

Another delegate said that, while considering the development of legal framework for the preservation of environment, the AALCC should not only suggest appropriate administrative and legislative measures to be taken within the country but also bear in mind the following basic principles :

- “(a) Consistent with the principles of sovereign equality of all States and mutual respect for each other, a State shall give due regard to the preservation of the environment of the other;
- (b) One State must not utilize its national resources so as to cause injury to the health, hygiene and sanitation of the people of other State;
- (c) Provision for indemnification or compensation of the aggrieved parties should be made for injury caused to the environment of that State;
- (d) There should be provision and machinery for peaceful and compulsory settlement of disputes arising under the environmental law;
- (e) There should be provision for mandatory and mutual consultation and agreement when new method or change of utilization of shared natural resources is undertaken or planned.”

The delegate stressed the inter-relationship between water resources and environment and said that the AALCC should strive for urgent solution of such problems within the framework of legal rules and principles. He pointed out that if the natural flow of an international river was impeded it would produce harmful effects on the environment and thus pose a threat to the ecological balance of the lower riparian State.

At the end of the discussion it was decided that in view of the vast scope of the subject, the work on environmental protection should be undertaken on a long term basis for three to five years. It was agreed that the AALCC Secretariat should continue its work on the basis of the report of the Expert Group and convene another meeting of the Expert Group before the next session.

In the light of the above directions, the Secretariat as a first step prepared a list of environmental legislations which are in force in the countries of the Asian-African and Pacific regions. The Secretariat also prepared two detailed notes on ‘prevention and control of offshore pollution’ and the ‘Marine Pollution Combating Centres’, as those topics were considered to be of special interest to member governments.

The Secretary-General convened another meeting of the Expert Group in December 1979 in order to afford an opportunity for an exchange of views on the question of prevention and control of marine pollution, especially the pollution stemming from exploration and exploitation of petroleum and gas resources in off-shore areas and to explore the possibility of establishing emergency posts to combat pollution arising from oil spills and other disasters.

The Expert Group expressed the view that the AALCC had an important role to play in suggesting to member governments various measures that might be taken by them either individually or through co-operative efforts of countries within the region or a sub-region for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. It was of the view that in examining issues relating to marine pollution consideration should

be given to various sources of pollution, such as pollution stemming from vessel sources, off-shore drilling activities and installations as well as from pollutants flowing into marine areas through land-based sources including pollution through rivers. It was suggested that the AALCC, in the preparation of such suggestions and plans, should take into account work done by global and regional institutions engaged in matters relating to prevention and control of marine pollution.

The Expert Group stressed the need to co-ordinate national and regional activities aimed at protection and preservation of the marine environment within the broad framework of generally accepted international standards, rules and regulations. It appreciated the contribution of international organisations such as IMCO and UNEP in this field.

National legislation for the prevention and control of marine pollution

In regard to national legislation for the prevention and control of marine pollution, the Expert Group suggested the formulation of guidelines for the drafting of comprehensive national laws dealing with vessel source pollution, pollution resulting from off-shore industrial activities and pollution resulting from the flow of wastes into the marine areas from activities on land including the flow of industrial wastes. It was of the view that each country should draft the specific provisions of national laws taking into account its special problems. This, however, would not obviate the need for the formulation of general guidelines for the assistance of member governments.

The Expert Group, besides focussing its discussion on the general content of legislation, dealt with specific matters such as safety standards, penalties, principles of liability and measures for the control of off-shore pollution. It, however, felt that other specific matters such as environmental impact assessment, contingency planning and monitoring should also be considered in detail.

The Expert Group also recommended the broad framework for the preparation of guidelines for the legislation to prevent and control marine pollution.

The Expert Group was of the view that implementation and enforcement of the rights of a coastal State with regard to the prevention and control of marine pollution in the exclusive economic zone might pose several difficult problems such as definition of zones under national jurisdiction, hot pursuit and acceptance of the coastal State jurisdiction. These matters, however, were under consideration at the Third Law of the Sea Conference.

Regional and sub-regional co-operation

On the question of regional and sub-regional co-operation, the Expert Group's discussion centered on an identification of areas in which co-operation was desirable, the machinery for giving effect to such co-operation and ways and means of financing activities for the prevention and control of pollution on a regional or sub-regional basis.

The Expert Group was of the view that in formulating a scheme for regional and sub-regional co-operation for the prevention and control of marine pollution, all possible sources of pollution should be taken into account such as pollution from vessel-based sources, pollution stemming from off-shore activities and installations as well as pollution from land-based sources.

The Expert Group was of the view that the AALCC should consider the formulation of a legal instrument which would be most suitable for promoting such co-operation between countries in the Asian-African region.

The Expert Group was of the view that the waters beyond the territorial seas in the South Asian region constituted one of the areas most suited for sub-regional co-operation especially in view of the large volume of tanker traffic.

Establishment of emergency posts

The Expert Group supported the idea of establishing emergency posts equipped with trained personnel, scientific equipment and transport facilities to deal effectively with oil pollution arising out of accidents. It was suggested that the AALCC should clearly indicate the stages through which sub-regional co-operation could be effected taking into account the costs of such an initiative. A suggestion was made to examine a scheme providing for a system of pooling of the resources between coastal States and users of the ocean. The rationale for such a scheme of proportional contributions was based on the fact that marine pollution resulted not only from vessel-based sources. The specific proportion of the contributions would need to be decided upon after further consideration of the feasibility of such a scheme and an examination of the documents relating to funds which have been established under international conventions dealing with oil pollution damage. An insurance scheme for vessels, the levy of charge on vessels, coastal State contributions and user State contributions might provide possible means of obtaining the financial resources necessary for the establishment and maintenance of emergency posts.

Sea routes customarily used for international navigation through national waters

The Expert Group also discussed questions concerning the threat of pollution arising from the passage of vessels, especially oil tankers, along sea routes running through national waters such as internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial seas. Some representatives informed the meeting of the steps taken by their governments for the establishment of traffic separation schemes in consultation with the IMCO. It was recognised that responsibility for the prevention and control of marine pollution in these waters fell under the sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction of the coastal State and users should comply with the regulations that were promulgated by the coastal State for the control of such pollution. It was stressed that such regulations should take into account the generally

accepted international standards, rules and regulations. The Expert Group, while recognising the importance of matters relating to the prevention and control of pollution in the straits used for international navigation, however, noted that these were still under negotiation.

In the light of the recommendations of the two Expert Group meetings and discussions held at the AALCC's Doha and Seoul Sessions, the Secretariat drew up a work programme which consisted of :

- (i) Examination of the work of international and regional organisations including international conventions promoted by them with a view to focussing attention of member governments to a particular area or areas of primary interest and concern to the countries of the region; promoting initiatives, if necessary, on such matters at national levels and also through regional or sub-regional co-operation.
- (ii) Preparation of studies on specific topics and guidelines for legislations with a view to assisting member governments in the formulation of their national policies through legislative and administrative measures.
- (iii) Promoting initiatives for regional or sub-regional co-operation in matters of special interest to member governments with the co-operation and assistance, if necessary, of one or more of other international or regional organisations engaged in the field.

On the question of regional co-operation to deal with prevention and control of marine pollution, the AALCC recognised that whilst regional seas programmes on a comprehensive basis might be the ultimate objective through which marine pollution could be effectively prevented or controlled, it might be preferable, to begin with, to attempt something on a simpler scale where co-operation could be more easily achieved and the costs will be considerably less. It was felt

that the AALCC could assist in bringing about sub-regional co-operation by formulating the draft of a scheme as a possible sample. With this end in view, the Secretariat prepared certain tentative outlines of a scheme for sub-regional co-operation for prevention, control and combating of pollution, particularly in emergency situations. This draft was placed before the Twenty-first Session of the AALCC held in Jakarta in 1980.

Jakarta Session (1980)

At the Jakarta Session the AALCC considered the topic at the fifth and sixth Plenary meetings held on the 30th April and 1st May 1980.

The observer from the *Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation* (IMCO) said that the AALCC had rightly identified the subject of inter-State co-operation as one of the pressing and relevant areas for discussion in the wider context of preservation of the marine environment. He assured IMCO's full co-operation with the AALCC and individual governments in promoting, organising and operation of programmes for the prevention and control of marine pollution and for controlling and/or dealing with marine pollution incidents. He gave an account of IMCO's activities in the field of prevention and control of marine pollution especially from ships. He said that IMCO had embarked on a comprehensive programme of technical assistance to the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America involving the use of multi-disciplinary advisers, experts and consultants at IMCO's headquarters and selected centres in these regions. He felt that IMCO and the AALCC could co-operate more closely in working out practical arrangements to deal with various problems concerning prevention and control of marine pollution.

One of the delegates observed that UNEP's work in the legal field had been largely confined to co-ordinating efforts for development of international conventions with respect to specific environmental problems. He stressed that the new environmental law should be "Resource-oriented Law" and

concentrate on the regulation and protection of natural resources. In his view, the AALCC's long term work programme on Environmental Law might include: a survey of international customary rules on environmental protection in Asian-African States; concepts in development of international environmental law underlying environmental policies in the Asian-African region; a study on conventional law of the environment particularly in the Asian-African region; the work of the UNEP and a sectoral study on the environmental law of the ocean, including marine pollution law on which the AALCC had already done a good deal of work.

Another delegate endorsed the approach taken by the AALCC in identifying the issues relating to protection and preservation of the marine environment. He recognised IMCO's valuable assistance in the formulation of Traffic Separation Scheme for the Malacca Straits. He also welcomed the AALCC's proposal to establish Regional Oil Pollution Combating Centres as an institutionalized form of regional co-operation for combating oil pollution. In his view, the AALCC should also urgently consider the need to tackle other forms of transfrontier pollutants that were released, not only in the marine environment but also in the atmosphere.

Yet another delegate said that the AALCC had already prepared a firm ground for regional and sub-regional co-operation in matters concerning prevention and control of marine pollution based on the extensive preparatory work carried out during the last four years. In his view, the proposal outlined in the study prepared by the Secretariat appeared to be practical and easy to put into practice after some elaboration. In regard to 'financial provisions' of the scheme, he felt that a distinction ought to be made between the operation of a conventional and emergency fund. In his view, the participating States and international organisations might share among them the conventional fund needed for acquisition of equipment and conventional operations whilst the users of the sea should bear all the revolving fund needed for emergency operations. The delegate suggested that the AALCC should encourage States of the Asian-African region to participate more actively in the

international marine preservation plans and in the activities of organisations such as UNEP and IMCO. He proposed that the Member States might strengthen their co-operation in such fields as exchange of information, joint training of personnel and reporting on domestic measures taken by each State. He cautioned against the imposition of unbearable burden on the industries in Asian-African States in the preparation and enforcement of plans to preserve the marine environment.

The view was expressed by one delegate that the AALCC should examine pollution problems in relation to international rivers.

The delegate of *Sri Lanka* expressed concern about the danger of oil spills from the growing oil tanker traffic through the southern coast of Sri Lanka. He informed the AALCC about the measures his Government was undertaking to deal with such problems. He supported the AALCC's scheme for sub-regional co-operation for prevention, control and combating of pollution particularly in emergency situations. In his view, the concept of establishment of emergency posts equipped with technical personnel, scientific equipment and other facilities to deal effectively with oil pollution arising out of accidents, was particularly invaluable to developing countries in the Asian-African region, which lacked the financial resources and the technological capability to deal with such situations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was decided that the Secretary-General should hold consultations with IMCO, UNEP and other interested organisations on the matters concerning the establishment of marine pollution combat centres.

Pursuant to this directive, the Secretary-General had a number of meetings with the Secretary-General of the IMCO and other senior officials at the IMCO headquarters in London. The discussions centered around the question of sub-regional co-operation for prevention, control and combating of pollution in emergency situations in the context of the tentative outlines of a scheme prepared by the AALCC's Secretariat as also the existing arrangements and schemes which have been

sponsored by the IMCO and the UNEP in respect of certain sub-regions. The question of financing of such initiatives was also discussed. A good deal of discussion took place about the best possible way in which co-ordination could be achieved between the AALCC, the IMCO and the UNEP with a view to avoiding duplication of work and also about the manner in which the AALCC, as an advisory body of its member governments, could assist in generating interest for implementation of the work programmes of various organisations engaged in the field of marine environment so that optimum results could be achieved through co-ordinated efforts. It was suggested that the AALCC should take up with member governments the question of ratification of or accession to some of the more important international conventions in the field of marine environment. It was felt that one of the major tasks of the AALCC in the field of environment could conceivably be to focus attention of governments to particular areas where urgent action was needed to be taken by governments both within and outside the programme of activities of competent international organisations.

Due to heavy work programme of the AALCC as also of other international organisations engaged in the field of marine environment, it was not found practicable to convene an Expert Group meeting during the intersessional period. It was however decided in consultation with the Liaison Officers that the Expert Group meeting be held along with the Twenty-Second Session of the AALCC from 27th May to 30th May, 1981 at Colombo.

The invitations for the Expert Group meeting had been sent to all member governments, the UNEP, the IMCO and such other organisations whose participation at the meeting was considered to be important for a fruitful outcome of the discussions in practical terms. Out of the organisations invited only a few expressed their willingness to participate, but many others including the UNEP and the IMCO were not in a position to attend due to other meetings which had been fixed on dates which overlapped those of the Colombo Session. In these circumstances, the Secretariat decided to postpone the

Expert Group meeting to a future date after the Colombo Session.

Colombo Session (1981)

At the Colombo Session, the AALCC considered the topic at its fifth Plenary meeting held on 29th May, 1981. The Secretary-General outlining the progress made by the AALCC in this field stated that the AALCC and the IMCO had identified the following five areas of co-operation between them :

- (i) Use of good offices of the AALCC to take up with the member governments the question of ratification of or accession to some of the important international conventions in the field of marine environment.
- (ii) Examination of the Regional Seas Programme under the consideration of UNEP with a view to focussing attention to the areas of urgent need and the stages of implementation.
- (iii) The question of legislations in the field of marine environment - consideration of the guidelines prepared by the IMCO and the drafts to be prepared by the AALCC, particularly in the areas not covered by the IMCO guidelines.
- (iv) Arrangements for joint meetings.
- (v) Joint efforts for securing the required finances.

The delegate of *Sri Lanka* said that the question of pre-preservation of the marine environment was of particular importance to his country due to heavy tanker traffic in the region. He informed the meeting of the measures undertaken by his government to protect the marine environment. These measures included, legislation for the establishment of a Marine Pollution Prevention Authority, preparation of a contingency plan to deal with marine pollution emergencies, implementation of a traffic separation scheme off the coast of Dondra

and organisation of a regional conference and seminar to discuss these matters.

Another delegate endorsing the suggestion of convening another Expert Group meeting by the AALCC stated that, besides study of major conventions in the field of marine environment, the agenda for the proposed Expert Group meeting should include consideration of the Regional Seas Programme under the co-ordination of UNEP focussing attention to the Asian-African region. He felt that the Manila Declaration adopted on 30th April, 1981 was a major step towards the implementation of East Asian Regional Seas Programme.

A view was expressed that the work of the AALCC should be carried out in a manner that avoids any duplication of work already being carried out by IMCO, UNEP and other regional bodies.

**V. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE FOR
SERVICE OF PROCESS, ISSUE OF
LETTERS ROGATORY AND THE
RECORDING OF EVIDENCE
ABROAD, BOTH IN CIVIL AND
CRIMINAL CASES**
